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"Modell 48" Ammunition at
Altenhain Ammunition Dump

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)

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REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

"Modell 48" (76.2-mm)

- 25X1 1. Between 11 and 17 June 1948, one thousand rounds of a new type of ammunition arrived at the Altenhain Ammunition Dump. This is hereafter referred to as "Modell 48" (76.2-mm) but its correct designation is not known.
- 25X1 2. This ammunition is primarily for anti-tank use but capable of being fired with air-burst, contact, or delayed detonation (sic). Its working principle is that an AP cone penetrates the target surface and its point is then blown further in by an HE charge behind.
- 25X1 3. The officers' course now in progress at the depot is mainly concerned with the handling and firing of "Modell 48" ammunition.
- 25X1 4. This type is fired several times a week on the range just outside the depot. The range is walled off and invisible from within the depot, so that it is not possible to determine what guns are used. Examination of the area after working hours suggests that a concrete wall five meters thick is fired on from a distance of one thousand meters. The deepest penetration into this wall is about 75 centimeters.
- 25X1 5. The report is unusually short and fierce but when the listener is about one thousand meters from both butt and firing point, the discharge cannot be distinguished from the strike.
- 25X1 6. The round is described as follows:
- a. A perfectly conical head of diameter 7.62-cm at the base and with an estimated length of seven centimeters. For the first two-thirds of its length, this head consists of a sharply pointed iridium (sic) nose, which fits so snugly on the head that the joint can be detected only by the difference in color.
- b. Behind the conical head, like the stalk of a mushroom, is a thick tubular section estimated at four centimeters long and six centimeters in diameter.

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Approved For Release 2005/12/16 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001900590006-5

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c. Behind the "stalk" is the main section of 76.2-mm caliber and with an estimated length of nine centimeters, the shoulders of which slope slightly away from the "stalk". The rear end of this part is also slightly tapered where it fits into the cartridge case.

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d. [REDACTED]

e. On the steel part of the conical head near its joint with the iridium nose are three longitudinal slits, regularly spaced but all on one side.

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f. [REDACTED]

g. The main section bears five rings set in regularly spaced grooves, which resemble un-sprung piston rings. The foremost ring bears the figures 1 to 10 evenly spaced round its whole circumference. The second, third, and fourth rings each have one recess for the insertion of a hook-key. These rings are set in different positions relative to the slits in the conical head, to produce different types of detonation (air-burst, delay, etc.). The hindmost ring [REDACTED] is connected with the setting for detonation on impact.

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7. The cartridge case is the normal rimmed type, tapering slightly to the front. The forward end is crimped to grip the projectile. Either an electrical or a percussion primer can be screwed into the base.

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8. The whole round is estimated to be fifty-two centimeters long. [REDACTED]

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9. Two rounds only of this type are held at Altenhain. They are brought out and shown periodically to officers at the training course mentioned above.

10. Apart from their larger size, they are identical in appearance with "Modell 48" (76.2-mm). The projectile is estimated at twenty-eight centimeters long and the cartridge case at seventy centimeters long.

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11. [REDACTED]

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12. [REDACTED] "Modell 48" ammunition also exists in 57-mm caliber. Packing notes containing information on this caliber of round are also included in the boxes of 76.2-mm ammunition of this type.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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